

deceased. William Townsend, died in 1864, and Ann Maria (Benson) Townsend, died in 1866, were the parents of the subject of this sketch, and his wife's parents, Joel and Frances H. (Andrews) Bryan, died, the former in 1868 and the latter in 1875. Sylvanus Townsend has been a minister of the Gospel since 1859, joining first the Philadelphia Methodist Episcopal

Conference. In 1867 he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church (South) Baltimore Conference, and he has traveled circuits in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, and in 1883 he was appointed to Levelton circuit, Pocahontas county, and is living at Hillsboro. His address is Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

filling the office of commissioner of the county court. His post office address is Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**RICHARD WASHINGTON HILL**—son of Joel and Rebecca (Livesay) Hill, natives of Pocahontas county, is a grandson of one of the earliest settlers in this county. His grandfather came from North Carolina, and settled on the creek named in his honor, "Hills creek," during the troubled days when the white men and the Indians were disputing for the soil, and he himself had several narrow escapes from the tomahawk. Richard W. Hill was born on Little Levels, this county, June 5, 1847, and he is now a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser, residing one mile northwest of Hillsboro, having 460 acres of productive land. G. A. Hill, his brother, was in the Confederate army under Gen. Price, and was killed in Carroll county, Missouri, in 1863, by bushwhackers. In Richlands, Greenbrier county, December 18, 1872, Richard W. Hill and Sarah Margaret Watts were united in marriage, and their children were five: Frank Raymond, born October 20, 1873; Joel F. C., January 28, 1876; Glenna R. L., December 28, 1878; Harry, January 3, 1882, died in infancy; Anthony B. F., July 30, 1883. The parents of Mrs. Hill were James Franklin Watts, born on Big Levels, Greenbrier county, (now) West Virginia in 1824, and died in same county, December 17, 1881, and Rachel (Bunger) Watts, born in Greenbrier county in January, 1830, and died in the same county in March, 1862. Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia, is Richard W. Hill's post office address.

**JAMES A. LaRUE, M. D.**—is a son of Cyrus Scott LaRue, who was born in Rockbridge county, West Virginia, in 1816, and Julia S. (Alexander) LaRue, born in Augusta county, Virginia, in 1818. His parents are residents in Greenbrier county, West Virginia, and he was born in that county, August 27, 1850. He had one brother, I. H. LaRue, who was captain in Company E, 60th Virginia Infantry, Confederate service, now a lawyer of

Pulaski county, Virginia. The LaRues are descended from French Huguenots, who came to America in the 17th century, and whose descendants are scattered over several States, many of them now reckoned Virginians. The Alexanders came from Ireland to America, although, as their name shows, they were of Scottish race. They settled in Pennsylvania in 1740, and part of the family afterward moved to Virginia. Several of the name and blood are well known in the history of the Presbyterian Church, among them Rev. Archibald Alexander of Princeton Seminary, New Jersey; Rev. H. C. Alexander, now professor in the Union Theological Seminary of Virginia. James A. LaRue and Lillian E. Livesay were married near Frankford, Greenbrier county, West Virginia, June 20, 1883. Mrs. LaRue is a daughter of John and Margaret (Bright) Livesay, residents of Greenbrier county. The subject of this sketch was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Maryland, in 1876, and in 1878 established himself in the practice of his profession at Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**HON. WILLIAM LAMB McNEEL**—born near Hillsboro, Pocahontas county, July 13, 1825, is a son of Abraham and Magdaline (Kelly) McNeel, now deceased, and a grandson of John McNeel, who came to this county from Capon, (now) West Virginia, about 1770, and reared his primitive log cabin on land now owned among his descendants. He also built the first hewed log house in the county, and it is now owned by J. M. McNeel. In Greenbrier county, (then) Virginia, October 25, 1853, William L. McNeel married Margaret Jane Beard, daughter of Joseph and Martha Beard. She was born October 25, 1833, and died September 12, 1871; Martha Magdaline, born April 7, 1856, married George Callison, and they live in Little Levels, this county; Nannie Eliza, born October 13, 1857, lives at home; William Lloyd, March 9, 1859, lives in Whitman county, Wyoming Territory; John Abraham, November 11, 1860; Joseph Samuel, November 26, 1862; Mary Irene, January 9, 1865—these three at home; Robert Lee, December

11, 1866, died May 8, 1867; Margaret Pauline, March 31, 1868; Henry Washington, December 18, 1870—these two at home; Maggie Wallace, September 26, 1873, lives with her grandparents. At Staunton, Augusta county, Virginia, November 4, 1880. William L. McNeel married Mary E., daughter of Samuel M. and Mary C. Woodward. During the last three years of the war between the States William L. McNeel served in the confederate army as captain of Company F, 19th Virginia Cavalry. From 1872-6 he was sheriff of Pocahontas county, was elected to the legislature, and is now a member of the West Virginia Senate, elected for the term of four years in 1880. He owns large tracts of fine land in Pocahontas county, and is one of the most successful stock-raisers in the county. His post office address is Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

FRANKLIN ANDREW RENICK—is a son of William and Rebecca (Renick) Renick, of Greenbrier county, and was born on his father's homestead in that county, near Falling Springs, October 6, 1828. Joseph and Mary (Hanna) Handley, of Falling Springs, Greenbrier county, were the parents of his wife, and she was born on her father's farm February 25, 1839. There their marriage was consummated on the 20th of May, 1857, and the record of their children is: Robert Strother, born Christmas Day, 1858; Thomas Jackson, July 6, 1862; Mary Alice, November 30, 1864; Joseph William, May 25, 1867; Lucy Ellen, October 4, 1869; Jessie Margaret, July 10, 1872; and Eddie, Freddie and baby boy—these three deceased. Robert is making his home at Beaver Canon, Idaho, and the other living children are at Little Levels, this county. On the first of July, 1862, Franklin A. Renick was obliged to enter the Confederate service or send a substitute, and took the last alternative. About the first of April, 1864, the substitute law having been repealed, he was compelled to enter the service, and so he found himself two soldiers in one service, Company E, 14th Virginia Cavalry, and so served till the close of the war. He was taken prisoner September 9, 1864, and confined in

Camp Chase, Ohio, until March 17, 1865, when he took the oath of allegiance and was released, nearly dead with starvation and disease incident upon his confinement without the proper comforts of life. He saw a great deal of the inside corruption which was then disgracing the Federal government, of medicines and food for prisoners that was never allowed to reach its destination, of prisoners escaping or having their exchange hurried through bribing Federal officers, and his opinion, with that of all the helpless among the prisoners, was that the government thought that the cheapest way of disposing of them was by killing them off. When he took the oath of allegiance, a Federal officer congratulated him upon his return to the rights and privileges of the United States citizen; but it was some years before the so-called "loyal" citizens of his native State permitted him to exercise the right of franchise. He was in constant marching and skirmishing during his participation in the war, and one heavy stampede, that at Moorefield, when with the poor fellows who formed the rank and file of the line, he fought and took his chance on death, while the general of the brigade and his staff were roystering two miles away. He is now a farmer and stock-raiser of Levelton district. Mr. Renick owns a fine farm of 1,000 acres, lying at the foot of Droop Mountain. His farm was a part of the battleground on which the famous Droop Mountain fight occurred, and his house was used for a hospital by the Federal soldiers. His post office address is Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

REV. SYLVANUS TOWNSEND—was born and wedded in Maryland, his birth occurring in Talbot county, March 5, 1837, and his marriage solemnized in Cecil county, May 8, 1862. Anna I. Bryan, born in Cecil county, Maryland, May 20, 1835, became his wife, and their children are four living at home, four who died in infancy: Lillian, born April 9, 1863; William Guy, September 27, 1864; Fannie, September 16, 1867; Anna Virginia, September 22, 1871—these four at home; and Paul, Sylvania, Bryan Marvin, and Edith Maria



longer living. In Highland county, Virginia, in 1866, Dr. Pruyn Patterson was united in marriage with Lizzie R. Campbell, born in Highland county in 1842. Benjamin B. and Margaret (Slaven) Campbell, the latter now deceased, were her parents. The children of Dr. and Mrs. Patterson are one son and two daughters: Harry Pruyn, born May 25, 1867; Margie Campbell, February 25, 1869; Annie M., July 25, 1874—all still at home. Dr. Patterson has his residence in Huntersville, and his practice in that and adjoining districts.

#### NO. 4 DISTRICT

**CHARLES WOODS BEARD**—was born on Locust creek, Pocahontas county, September 6, 1827, a son of Josiah and Rachel C. (Poage) Beard, and he married, at Mill Point, this county, August 5, 1858, Elizabeth Jeannette Perkins, born on Anthonys creek, Greenbrier county, July 14, 1834. Salathiel and Mary M. (Coulter) Perkins were her parents. Her father is now deceased, as are the parents of Mr. Beard. His mother died in 1873, and his father in 1878. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Beard, all at home, were born: Fannie Cameron, October 15, 1859; Mary Margaret, December 7, 1861; Lucy Early, May 31, 1864; Rachel Rebecca, March 6, 1867; Nannie Woods, March 5, 1869. Charles W. Beard served in the Confederate army in the war between the States. He volunteered in 1861, joining the 19th Virginia Cavalry, and was wounded in the shoulder at Bunker Hill, near Winchester. He continued in the service until the Confederate army disbanded. Josiah Beard, his father, was elected first clerk of Pocahontas county in 1821, and discharged the duties of that office with integrity and judgment. He was also one of the first elders in the church at Falling Springs, was never known to taste an intoxicant, and all who knew him said, "He is a true Christian gentleman." Charles W. Beard owns a fine farm of 200 acres, one mile south of Hillsboro, that known as the "Poage Homestead." It has no superior in the county in natural facilities and fertility. His post office address is Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**CYRUS P. BRYAN, M. D.**—born in Alleghany county, Virginia, June 28, 1829, was a son of Dr. Hugh P. and Nancy M. (Sawyers) Bryan, both now deceased. In Campbell county, Virginia, July 15, 1856, he wedded Mary W. Scott, and Robert E., their only child, was born November 21, 1860. He is now a physician and a resident of Goshen, Rockbridge county, Virginia. He is a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College, class of 1882. The wife of Dr. Bryan was born in Campbell county, a daughter of Thomas P. and Margaret P. (Burke) Scott. Cyrus P. Bryan graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, class of 1855, and has been a successful practitioner ever since. During the war he served as a soldier of the Bath county (Virginia) Cavalry, Confederate service, and he acted as surgeon of the military post at Warm Springs in the fall and winter of 1862. He served in the Virginia legislature from July 1, 1863, to April 5, 1865, and in 1873 established himself in Hillsboro, where he is one of the leading physicians, and is president of the local board of health. His post office address is Academy, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**SHERMAN HARPER CLARK**—farmer and stock-raiser of No. 4 (Levelton) district, owns some very valuable land, with coal deposits, on the headwaters of Spring creek, and in different tracts owns 3,318 acres, all very valuable property. On these lands he is grazing stock, in raising and handling which he is very successful. His father, Sheldon Clark, came to Pocahontas county in 1821, and settled on land where the subject of this sketch is now living, in the year 1827. Sheldon Clark married Mary Lightner, born in this county, and their son, Sherman Harper, was born August 23, 1829. His parents are now both deceased. Joel and Rebecca (Livesay) Hill are the parents of Mary Frances, wife of Mr. Clark. She was born in Pocahontas county, near Hillsboro, May 31, 1835, and became the wife of Sherman H. Clark on the 6th of December, 1853. Emma Caroline, their daughter, was born June 10, 1865. Sherman H. Clark was county surveyor from 1851 to 1870, and is now ably



H. and Mary (Wiley) Bird, and her mother died in 1851. Emma A., born October 7, 1874, and Charles A., born March 15, 1880, are the children of Mr. and Mrs. McGlaughlin. For a number of years, Mr. McGlaughlin has been constable and clerk of the board of overseers of the poor. His post office address is Huntersville, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**ANDREW WASHINGTON MOORE** is descended from the pioneer Moses Moore, elsewhere mentioned in this work, one of the most hardy pioneers of the county and sustaining an enviable reputation as a woodsman. The Moore family are Virginians, and have been since its organization prominent in the affairs of Pocahontas county. Andrew W. has been overseer of the poor, president of the school board, and has held a number of county and district offices. He was a son of Isaac and Margaret (Wilson) Moore, now both deceased, and was born on the farm where he now resides. He is now engaged in its cultivation and in cattle raising. August 18, 1817, was the date of his birth, and he was first married February 17, 1842, to Anna, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Lightner) Harper, now deceased. She was born in Pocahontas county, April 29, 1821, and the children of her marriage were born: Sarah F., June 2, 1844, lives at Little Levels, this county; Mary E., March 31, 1846, lives on Elk river; Henry H., July 2, 1848, lives at Dunmore, this county; Martha E., October 23, 1851, lives on Elk river; Zane W., February 19, 1858, lives in Missouri; Anna J., September 17, 1862, lives at home. Margaret J. Dever, who was born July 22, 1833, became the wife of Andrew W. Moore, May 19, 1864, and their children are Samuel P. P., born August 1, 1865; Eliza S., November 15, 1868; John A., February 24, 1872; Isaac P., July 25, 1876. Mr Moore may be addressed at Sunset, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**DANIEL A. STOFER**—a Virginian by birth, has been a resident of Pocahontas county since he was thirty years of age, and for the past eight years has been prosecuting attorney, and still fills the office. He was born in

Middlebrook, Augusta county, Virginia, May 5, 1821, a son of Henry Turner Stofer, who died in 1852, and Mary (Piper) Stofer, who died in 1824. He served in the Mexican war, under Taylor, volunteering in 1846, and at the inauguration of the civil war entered the Confederate service. He had two brothers in the same army, one of whom gave his life for the Lost Cause. Daniel A. held the commission of captain, and was in active service until July 19, 1863, when he received five wounds in a skirmish, all in less than one minute. He was wounded once in the face, twice in the breast, and twice in the left leg, breaking the thigh bone off in two places. One ball still remains in the leg. Of the two that entered the breast, one was cut out near the spine, and the other came out under the right arm. The wounds healed on the surface, and an inward abscess formed, which confined him to his couch for twelve months, subjected him to five operation, and gave him great trouble. Thus his further service was lost to the Confederacy. He is now entirely recovered in health, and in his political and social relations is one of the most popular men in Huntersville, which is his residence and post office address.

**COL. RUDOLPH S. TURK**—attorney-at-law, practices in Pocahontas, Randolph, and Greenbrier counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals. He took up his residence in Pocahontas county in 1875, and in 1877 was elected prosecuting attorney, serving for four years. His birth was in Augusta county, Virginia, in 1848, Rudolph and Annie E. (Robertson) Turk his parents. His mother died in 1855. At Lewisburg, countyseat of Greenbrier county, West Virginia, in December, 1879, Rudolph S. Turk married Willie C. Cary. She was born in Greenbrier county in 1856, a daughter of William Cary, who died in 1858, and Ophelia (Mathews) Cary, who died in 1869. The post office address of Col. Turk is Huntersville, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**S. PRUYN PATTERSON, M. D.**—is a Virginian, born in Staunton, countyseat of Augusta, a son of James F. and Maria H. Patterson, who are no

after suffering families in his neighborhood. He had charge of some thirty families, Union and Confederate alike, who would have suffered unspeakable hardships but for his protection. He receives his mail at Edra, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

### NO. 3 DISTRICT

**AMOS BARLOW**—born in Pocahontas county, January 11, 1831, was a son of natives of this county, John and Martha (Waddell) Barlow. His father was born November 26, 1781, and died January 23, 1866; his mother was born January 12, 1790, and died October 7, 1872. The first wife of Amos Barlow was Mary Ann Moore, and their children were two: July F., born February 12, 1852, died September 5, 1861; M. Agnes, born June 20, 1855, died August 3, 1875. In Edra, this county, February 22, 1859, Amos Barlow was united in marriage with Mary S. Poague, who was born in Pocahontas county, May 8, 1843. James R. and Elizabeth L. (Harper) Poague, natives of and residents in Pocahontas county, are her parents. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Barlow are five, born: Letcher D., June 20, 1860; Lucy B., May 6, 1868; Willie H., March 17, 1875; Samuel L., April 7, 1877; Frank Pryne, March 6, 1880—the oldest lives in Greenbank, this county, and the others at home. Amos Barlow is a merchant of Huntersville, and in business is achieving that success that awaits on an honest and upright business man. He was almost ruined in finances by the ravages of the civil war, but by perseverance and integrity has re-established himself in business.

**ELISHA C. CANFIELD**—was born in Leedsville, Randolph county, (then) Virginia, March 9, 1828, and in that county, October 24, 1850, he married Margaret Wilmoth, who was born at New Interest, Randolph county. Their children are seven: Nathan W., born

August 1, 1851; William P., August 3, 1853; Lucinda J., October 31, 1854; James B., April 23, 1856; David B., May 31, 1858; Levi C., November 20, 1861; Francis M., April 9, 1865. James B. is one of the editors of the Pocahontas Times, at Huntersville, this county, and the others are living in Leedsville, Randolph county, where Elisha C. Canfield has a farm. Amos and Nancy A. (Schoonover) Canfield were the parents of Elisha C., and his wife is a daughter of John and Elizabeth A. (Kittle) Wilmoth. The parents of both are deceased. His father died November 12, 1881, and his mother died December 29, 1880. Elisha C. Canfield's post office address is Upper Cheat, Randolph county, West Virginia.

**WILLIAM CURRY**—son of John and Jane Curry, was born in Bath county, Virginia, November 28, 1821. In 1853 he made his home in Pocahontas county, and in this county, on the 21st of February, 1860, he married Lucy, daughter of Joel and Rebecca Hill. She was born in Pocahontas county, September 21, 1841, and their children were born: Rebecca C., August 21, 1861; Sherman P., November 24, 1865; Mary C., June 1, 1870; Lillie L., December 12, 1873. From March, 1853, to January 1, 1879, William Curry was clerk of the circuit and county courts of Pocahontas county (a portion of the time acting as deputy clerk). He is now one of the substantial farmers of the county, with post office address at Huntersville, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**PLEASANT A. DILLEY**—son of William and Betsey (Baker) Dilley, and Lillie McCarty, daughter of George and Eliza (Herold) McCarty, were united in marriage in Ironton, Lawrence county, Ohio, in 1873. Both were natives of Huntersville, the former born February 20, 1852, and the latter on the 26th of May, 1858. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Dilley were born: Lillie G., December 28, 1874; Mary Allie, January 3, 1876; Clarence S., July 27, 1877; William C., May 29, 1879;

Emma S., February 23, 1882. All are at home with their parents in Huntersville district, where Mr. Dilley is successfully conducting a blacksmithing business. Post office address, Huntersville, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**ANDREW HEROLD**—born in Pocahontas county, August 7, 1881, and Maria Seebert, born in this county May 15, 1831, were here joined in wedlock, on the 22d of August, 1849. Their children were ten, born: Lanty W., July 18, 1850; Millard F., October 11, 1851; Joseph S., June 2, 1854; Isaac N., July 18, 1856; John Letcher, December 11, 1858; Horace F., August 27, 1862; Edwin Lee, December 7, 1864; Ida R., August 27, 1867; Andrew F., January 2, 1870; Pruyn P., November 12, 1873. Edwin and Joseph are deceased, Isaac is in Missouri, Lanty W. is farming and grazing on Knapps creek, and the others are at home. Christopher and Elizabeth (Cook) Herold, now both deceased, were parents of Andrew Herold, and his wife was a daughter of Joseph Seebert, now deceased, and Rebecca (Lockridge) Seebert. Lanty W. Herold, for whom this sketch is compiled, has a number of sheep ranges in Pocahontas county, and is successfully grazing, and trading in cattle. There is no man in West Virginia of his years better posted in sheep raising. The Herold family reside on Knapps creek, and have their post office address at Frost, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**JAMES T. LOCKRIDGE**—son of Lanty and Elizabeth (Benson) Lockridge, was born in Pocahontas county in 1821. His parents are both deceased, his father's death occurring in 1859. In 1854, in the State of Iowa, James T. Lockridge married Eliza B. Moser, and their children are four: Florence, born April 9, 1856; Horace M., April 10, 1858; Laura L., May 29, 1859; James Bedford, May 3, 1862. Florence lives in Iowa, the others at home. Philip Moser, jr., in 1827 married Charlotte Wilcox, and their daughter Eliza B. was born in Philadelphia, in 1835. Her mother was of distinguished English family, and

Mrs. Lockridge has a copy of her grandfather's coat-of-arms, the armorial device: "He beareth (argent, a lion rampant between three crescent sables) a chief very." "This is the coat-of-arms of Samuel Wilcox of Tartainham High Cross, in the county of Middlesex" Philip and Sophia Moser, born about 1735, were the parents of Philip, jr., father of Mrs. Lockridge, and he was born December 16, 1770. He had ten sisters and two brothers, all of whom died previous to March, 1830. James T. Lockridge has always been identified with the best interests of his native county since reaching manhood's estate, and is now a magistrate of Huntersville district, where he is farming and raising stock. He was colonel in the State militia for a number of years, and a member of the Virginia legislature from 1858 to 1862. Horace M., the oldest son, one of the enterprising men of the younger generation in this county, is the present superintendent of public schools in Pocahontas county. His post office address is Huntersville, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**HUGH P. McGLAUGHLIN**—son of Samuel G. and Elizabeth (Wright) McGlaughlin, was born in Highland county, Virginia, August 1, 1843, and his home has been in Pocahontas county since he was nine years of age. His father died March 20, 1844. His grandparents were among the first and most prominent settlers in this part of Pocahontas county, and amassed considerable property here. Hugh P. McGlaughlin enlisted in Company I, 25th Virginia Infantry, and served through the war between the States in the Confederate army. For eleven months of the time he was a prisoner, taken first to Point Lookout, and thence to Elmira, New York. He had one brother in the service who died in the Elmira prison, of scurvy, on the 11th of November, 1864. Returning to Pocahontas county after the close of the war, Hugh P. McGlaughlin engaged in farming, which is still his occupation, and in which he is achieving a success rarely attained in a hilly country. In 1869, in Pocahontas county, he married Alcinda Bird, who was born in Highland county, Virginia, in 1848. She was a daughter of George



Robert and Hannah (Moore) Gay, pioneers of the county, were his parents. His father came to this county from Rockbridge county, Virginia, before the Indians had abandoned the soil, and while the white settlers still lived in fear of the tomahawk and torch of the savage. Robert Gay settled first on Thorny creek, then moved to land now owned by Jacob Sharp, then to the farm now owned by his grandson Levi. Here he built first a cabin, and then a part of the house now occupied by his son. In Huntersville, Pocahontas county, June 24, 1834, John Gay was united in marriage with Margaret B. Clark, who was born in Cecil county, Maryland, June 19, 1810. John and Elizabeth V. (Miller) Clark were her parents, and both died in Augusta county, Virginia. Her father died September 30, 1836, and her mother died January 30, 1839. The father of John Gay died March 22, 1834, and his mother died August 15, 1849. The children of John Gay and wife are recorded: Samuel M., born May 29, 1835, lives in Pocahontas county; Hannah E., February 23, 1837, died January 1, 1862; Susan Jane, born January 25, 1839, married Adam C. Young, and they live in Pocahontas county; Levi, born December 22, 1840, is sheriff of Pocahontas county, and lives at home; Harriet, born January 3, 1843, died December 26, 1861; Ann Maria, born July 8, 1845, married Jacob S. Moore, November 24, 1870, and they live in this county; Edward, born October 10, 1847, lives at home; James R. B., April 29, 1850, died January 2, 1851; Sallie Hamilton, born April 30, 1853, died December 21, 1857. Samuel and Levi served in the Confederate army, 31st Virginia Infantry, and both were wounded. Levi was wounded at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, and Samuel at the battle of Strausburg. John Gay is farming and raising stock. He was twenty-eight years justice of the peace, was deputy sheriff, 1828-9, and represented Pocahontas county in the Virginia legislature from 1839 to 1841, and from 1843 to 1845. His address is Marlins Bottom, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

REV. GEORGE PRESTON  
MOORE—grandson of Robert Moore,

sr., who came to Pocahontas county in the year 1800, and son of Robert Eliza (Bruffey) Moore, was born in Edra district, this county, January 7, 1839. His parents were both natives of Pocahontas county, and died in Iowa, his father's death occurring in Cedar county, in 1875, and his mother departing this life in Davis county, in 1872. The first wife of George P. Moore was Elizabeth M. Poage, and he married his second wife, Ruth J. Gay, at Edra. She was born at Doe Hill, Highland county, Virginia, on the 30th of June, 1844, and her marriage day was on the anniversary of her birth in 1865. Robert T. and Elizabeth (Wilson) Gay were her parents, and her father died in 1875. At the time of the elder Robert Moore's settlement in Pocahontas county the country was in the pioneer stage of its existence, the nearest store being thirty miles distant. George P. Moore has lived all his life in this district, within a quarter of a mile of the place of his birth, and has held nearly all the offices in the gift of his fellow-townsmen. He did not take part in the civil war, except to act as depot quartermaster's agent at Edra. In 1856 he received the appointment of postmaster at Edra, and with the exception of the years of the war has held the office ever since, and is still the incumbent. He has also served acceptably as justice of the peace.

JAMES WAUGH—one of the farming residents of Edra district, Pocahontas county, was here born December 11, 1814. James and Rebecca (McGuire) Waugh were his parents. His father died in March, 1831, and his mother in July, 1867. The first marriage of James Waugh was with Sarah Cochran, who died October 13, 1868. Near McDowell, Highland county, Virginia, was born Hannah A. Lamb, April 22, 1848, and in the place of her birth she became the wife of James Waugh, January 4, 1872. They have one son, Rudolph T., born January 22, 1879. John Lamb, father of Mrs. Waugh, died in 1882, and her mother, whose maiden name was Frances Bright, is still living. James Waugh took no part in the war between the States, but was commissioned by the governor to look

auctioneer, and is the postmaster at Dunmore, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

## NO. 2 DISTRICT

**J. R. APPERSON**—was born in Hanover, Virginia, June 24, 1836, son of William and Elizabeth J. (Harris) Apperson. His parents left his native county in 1854, and came to Randolph county, (then) Virginia. In 1861, J. R. Apperson enlisted in the Confederate army, Company F, 31st Virginia Infantry, and in 1863 he was commissioned captain; October 2, 1864, he was made prisoner, near Port Republic, and taken to Fort Delaware, and held until the close of the war. During his active service he was three times wounded; once struck with a sabre. In Pocahontas county, February 27, 1868, he married Sarah M. Kee, and the children of their union are: Minnie M., born May 21, 1870; Charles R., November 28, 1875; Quintilla M., February 26, 1877. Sarah M., wife of Mr. Apperson, was born in Pocahontas county, December 5, 1843, daughter of William and Ruth D. (McCollam) Kee, natives of this county. J. R. Apperson has been a resident in Pocahontas county since 1870, is merchant and artist, and is at this time postmaster at Marlins Bottom, at which place he is erecting one of the finest residences in the county.

**GEORGE BAXTER**—was a son of William and Elizabeth (Barlow) Baxter, his father born in Bath county, Virginia, in 1808, and his mother in Pocahontas county in 1814. William Baxter came to Pocahontas county when young and made the home of his wedded life here, and George Baxter was born in Edra district, February 26, 1843. William Baxter died in September, 1881, and his widow followed him to the land of rest in the succeeding month. January 6, 1866, George Baxter wedded Sarah Ann, daughter of James R. and Elizabeth L. Poage. She died on the 6th of April,

1881, leaving him with six children, born: John Willis, April 4, 1867; Mary Elizabeth Birdie, July 11, 1869; Adam Oscar, August 16, 1873; Alie Belle Frances, February 19, 1876; Georgia Ann May, May 17, 1878; James William Ellis, April 1, 1881. At Edra, February 16, 1882, Margaret Jane Cassel became the wife of George Baxter, and they have one daughter, Eliza Myrtle, born December 24, 1882. Samuel and Mary Eliza Valentine (Tumbleson) Cassel were the parents of Margaret J., and she was born in Green Bank district, Pocahontas county, March 29, 1853. Her parents were Virginians, her father born in Bath county in 1815, and her mother in Augusta county in 1822. They settled in Pocahontas county before their marriage, about 1834, and Samuel Cassel died June 1, 1882, at his home in Green Bank district. George Baxter is a practical surveyor, and held the office of county surveyor in 1870-1, was again elected in 1880, his official term, which he is still serving, extending over the years 1881-4. His post office address is Edra, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**REV. ABNER M. CHAPPELL**—born in Loudoun county, Virginia, March 14, 1848, is a son of James M. and Susan P. (Slack) Chappell. In Shepherstown, Jefferson county, West Virginia, July 29, 1870, he was joined in wedlock with Catharine S. Lloyd, and they made their home in Pocahontas county in the present year. They have four children: Susan C., born August 1, 1872; James E., April 26, 1874; Prudence K., September 2, 1878; Ada Grace, January 11, 1882. Catharine S., wife of Mr. Chappell, was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, on the 5th of April, 1852, and she is a daughter of Harrison and Elvira (Maurice) Lloyd. Abner M. Chappell has been a local minister for eleven years, and is a member of the Virginia Methodist Episcopal Conference. His post office address is Edra, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

**JOHN GAY**—resides on the place where he was born, in Edra district, No. 2, Pocahontas county. The date of his birth was May 26, 1804, and

PERSONAL HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
POCAHONTAS COUNTY

NO. 1 DISTRICT

BENJAMIN F. JACKSON—is a native of North Carolina, born in Pasquotank county, October 15, 1819, a son of Benjamin M. and Prima (West) Jackson, now both deceased. At the age of eleven years he left his native State and accompanied an uncle to Indiana, where he lived until he attained his majority. He then made the journey from Indiana to North Carolina, in 1840, on horseback, and after a short stay at his old home he settled in Pendleton county, (then) Virginia, where he married and engaged in farming, tanning and a general mercantile trade. His first wife was Ruth, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Armstrong) Wilson, both now deceased, and she was born in Pendleton county, August 27, 1825. She married Mr. Jackson on the 22d of July, 1841, and died May 16, 1869, in Pocahontas county, where they had been at that date living thirteen years. Their children were ten: John S., born March 12, 1843; Virginia J., October 19, 1844; Hannah E., July 8, 1847; Indiana M., July 18, 1850; Ohio M., June 3, 1852; Nebraska D., May 16, 1854; William K., June 27, 1856; Samuel L., May 21, 1862; Andrew H., March 3, 1865; Edgar H., May 10, 1867—the oldest and youngest sons live with their father; Samuel lives in Staunton, Virginia; Virginia and Andrew in Huttonsville, Randolph county, West Virginia, and the other children at Dunmore, this county. After fifteen years of successful business in Pendleton county, Mr. Jackson came to where he now resides in Pocahontas county, and went to farming and raising stock. His present wife was Jemima Armstrong, and the children born to them are: Mary Nettie, born March 9, 1873; Clarence, October 30, 1874; Benjamin F., jr., December 4, 1876; George A., July 23, 1879; Ira H., August 16, 1882. Benjamin F. Jackson's postoffice address is Dunmore, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

ISAAC MOORE—son of Isaac Moore, now deceased, was born in Pocahontas county, April 21, 1820. In Greenbank, this county, October 29, 1846, he married Alcinda H. Arbogast, who was a daughter of William and Jane G. (Tallman) Arbogast, and was born in this county, September 6, 1827. Her father died in February, 1847. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Moore were seven: W. Crawford, born January 12, 1849, died October 27, 1861; Marietta, born February 14, 1851, lives in Buckhannon, Upshur county, this State; C. Rice, born May 21, 1853, lives at Clover Lick, this county; Ernest N., born January 5, 1856, lives at Glade Hill, this county; M. Florence, October 4, 1859, lives in Dunmore, this county; C. Forrest, January 28, 1863, lives at Nashville, Tennessee; Harry M., April 8, 1869, lives at home. Isaac Moore is a farmer and grazier, one of the best informed and most successful agriculturists in the county. That the resources of the county, its adaptability to grazing purposes may be fully known, he has recorded in this ENCYCLOPEDIA the following from his labor statistics. On his farm in the year 1882 there was raised and sold stock to the amount of \$15,000, without mention of the stock fed and held unsold. Robert Moore, the pioneer elsewhere spoken of, was the grandfather of Isaac Moore. Isaac Moore's post office address is Dunmore, Pocahontas county, West Virginia.

C. B. SWECKER—born in Virginia, has been a resident among the people of Pocahontas county since 1877. David W. and Celia F. (Eagle) Swecker were his parents, and he married Nebraska D., daughter of Benjamin F. and Ruth (Wilson) Jackson. She was born in Pocahontas county, and her family record is given with her father's sketch on this page. October 11, 1876, was the marriage day of C. B. Swecker and Nebraska D. Jackson, and Kemp D., their only child, was born July 19, 1878. C. B. Swecker is a skilled mechanic in the trade of cabinet-making, in architecture and in painting. He also follows the calling of



there among savage tribes search for his beloved son. On the eve of his departure on his hazardous mission a few of his neighbors gathered to bid him God speed. Then, with his rifle, he pushed out into the wilderness. A long year passed away and there were no tidings of him, for there were none to bring them, and his friends yielded reluctantly to the belief that he had fallen a victim to savage cruelty. But not so; he had journeyed far to the northwest, had crossed the strait, and found his long-lost son in the possession of a trader near Detroit. The homeward journey was begun, and at last both reached home and lived long in what is now Pocahontas county.

#### LEVELTON DISTRICT, NO. 4,

Is the most southern sub-division of the county. It derives its name from the plateau or flat lying north of Droop mountain. This flat embraces an area of several square miles, and is one of the most fertile spots in the Alleghany mountains. North of it, stretching away to the west, are the Yew mountains, while in the east is the Cranberry range, a southern offshoot of the Cheat mountain system. About four miles west of Hillsboro, stands Mount Bayard, towering to the height of 4,000 feet; it is the highest point of land in West Virginia. Viewed from Hillsboro, in the morning sunlight, it is an object of sublime grandeur. It is named in honor of Delaware's distinguished senator. To the south, Old Droop mountain, named from its peculiar shape, stands out prominently against the horizon. It is the historic mountain of the State, for here once struggled many thousand men in mortal combat.

The first settlement was made here in 1765, by John McNeel and the Kennisons; they have been noticed in the general history of the county. The first white child ever born within the limits of the district, was the infant of John and Martha McNeel, and is the same which was buried by the mother. Other early settlers were James Lewis, Alexander Wadell, James Brinnell, John Switzer, Richard Hill, William Clendenin, Abraham McNeal, Nathaniel Kennison, William Kennison, David Kennison, Josiah Beard, Thomas Beard and John Beard.

The first grist mill was built by Valentine Cackley, in the year 1800. It was located at what has ever since been called Mill Point, a short distance north of Hillsboro. It was a round pole structure, with one run of small stones; water was the propelling power. Prior to the erection of this mill, the people depended upon the hand mill and hominy block. In the year 1808, Mr. Cackley added a sawing apparatus; and he thus became not only the builder of the first grist mill, but of the first saw mill as well.

The first school was taught by Thomas Green, in the year 1798, in a rude cabin which stood one and a half miles north of Hillsboro, on lands now owned by W. L. McNeel. This pioneer temple of learning was a round pole structure with a clapboard roof, held in place by weight-poles; the floor was mother earth. Instead of windows, a log was chopped from one side, and over the aperture was pasted greased paper as a substitute for glass. There are at present twelve white and two colored schools in the district; 476 pupils attend the former, and 56 the latter.

It is said that Bishop Asbury, the great apostle of Methodism, was the first minister who visited the Little Levels, and that as early as 1789 he preached in the little "White Pole Church," erected by John McNeel, as elsewhere mentioned. The tradition is doubtless true, for it is substantiated by general records of the church. It appears that the first organization was perfected here in the last named year, and at the time the members composing the church were John McNeel, Martha McNeel, James Lewis and wife, Alexander Wadell and wife, Charles Kennison, Jacob Kennison, Mrs. James Brinnell, John Switzer and wife, Richard Hill, Nancy Hill, and Abraham McNeel and wife.

Hillsboro, the only village in the district, is situated on the Little Levels, 34 miles northeast of Lewisburg, and 17 miles southwest of Huntersville, the county seat. It was laid out in 1843, by Joseph Brown, a Presbyterian minister and school teacher. The original proprietors were John Hills, Davis Poage, Nathaniel Kennison and James Lewis.

standing on the farm of Andrew Herold. This tract included several thousand acres, and, as the records show, Mr. Moore gave in exchange for it two steel traps and two pounds sterling money.

#### EDRA DISTRICT, NO. 2,

Lies in the western part of the county, and is bounded north by Randolph county; northeast by Greenbank district; east by Huntersville district; south by Levelton, and west by Webster county. Here, as elsewhere in the county, the surface is rough and mountainous. In the north are the Middle mountains and southern continuations of the Elk and Cheat ranges; in the centre are the Black mountains, while in the east and southeast rise the lofty peaks of Buckleys, Marlins and Brushy ranges.

The principal drainage is to the west; with the exception of Sago creek, Stony creek, and one or two other small streams which flow east and fall into Greenbrier, all the streams flow west and form the headwaters of Gauley and Elk rivers. They have been named in the general view of the county.

The first cabin built within the limits of this district was that erected by Marlin and Sewell near the present site of Greenbrier Bridge, in the year 1749. (For a full account of their improvement see History of Greenbrier county, found elsewhere in this work.) The first actual settlers, those who found what they were in search of—homes—were Thomas Drennin, Jacob Warwick, William Sharp, Robert Moore, John Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Robert Gay, William Poage, Patrick Slaterly, Robert Duffle, Thomas Brock, Lawrence Drennin and John Smith.

The first grist mill was built by Jonathan McNeel, in the early part of the present century. It was located on Sago creek a short distance from its mouth. It was a round pole structure, with one run of small buhrs, adapted to grinding corn only. Water was the propelling power, and motion was communicated to the stones by an old-fashioned "over shot" wheel. The first saw mill was erected on the waters of Stony creek. It was a frame

building, with the old-fashioned sash saw, and was a primitive affair.

The first school ever taught in the district was in a log cabin which stood on the lands now the property of Robert Gay. The teacher was Mary Warwick, who taught her first term in the winter of 1809. It is said that several of the parents accompanied their children to this school and learned to read with them. There are now nineteen good public school buildings in the district, in which competent teachers are employed to teach 507 boys and girls the rudiments of an English education.

The first postoffice was Edra, and since its establishment four others have been added, viz., Marlins Bottom, Clover Lick, Split Rock and Buckeye Cove.

Who preached the first sermon, or when the first church was organized, cannot now be known, for, like much of the frontier church history elsewhere, it is lost in the oblivion of bygone years. All that is now known of it is that it was a Methodist congregation on Stony creek, and that William McCollum, John Smith, John Barlow and John Sharp were among the first members, and that the last-named was the first class leader.

Of those mentioned as the pioneers of the district, several were soldiers with General Lewis in the battle at Point Pleasant, and among them was Thomas Drennin. He was the first settler on the land where Edra post office is now located, and soon after he erected his cabin it was attacked (in his absence) by the Indians, who killed his wife and a woman named Smith, and carried his son Charles into captivity. When Mr. Drennin returned home and beheld his home in ruins, his beloved wife still in death, and thought of his son perhaps reserved for a worse fate, his heart failed within him, but a few days later he repaired to Fort Union and became a volunteer in the army then concentrating. He accompanied it to Point Pleasant, participated in the battle and in the march beyond the Ohio.

At the close of the war he returned to his mountain home, but there all ties for him were severed, and he resolved to journey to the west, and

Bible—as a reader. The first of these schools in this district was “kept” in a deserted log cabin, which stood on the banks of Knapps creek, not far from where Huntersville, the countyseat, now stands. It was a “five-sided” structure, one side of which was taken up with a huge fire place. The seats were made by splitting small logs in halves and inserting pins for legs in the oval sides. Who the first teacher was is not now known, and never will be, for there is no record, and the oldest person now living cannot remember.

Neither can it be known who preached the first sermon, but the names of many pioneer ministers are remembered. Everywhere in the settlement of the West the frontier preacher was an important factor, and scarcely was the roof of the cabin made fast before the Methodist circuit rider or the Baptist missionary made his appearance, collected the neighbors, preached a sermon, left an appointment for some time, perhaps a year in the future, then after a friendly farewell he continued his journey to another settlement. Among those who first visited what is now Pocahontas county were: the Revs. James Avis, John Miller, Amos Smith, J. W. Kenney, James Watts, Samuel Ellis, William P. McDowell, Elisha Knox, James Kerr, William Houston, Harvey Sawyers, N. Pendleton and John Howe. The first Presbyterian church of Huntersville was organized in 1854, by the Rev. Mitchell Dunlap. Among the first members were: Hugh McGlothlin, Jr., James A. Price, and George E. Craig. A house of worship was erected the same year. On the 12th day of August, 1854, William Gammon, Benjamin Herold, and James T. Lockridge, on behalf of the church, contracted with Davis W. Kerr for the erection of the church at the cost of \$1,846.

The Methodist Episcopal (South) Church of Huntersville, was organized in 1866, by the Rev. Sixes. Before the division of the church in 1844 into northern and southern branches, the Methodists had an organization at this place, but the Huntersville Church then belonged to what was known as the Leavitt circuit.

Mount Vernon Church, built in 1850, was the first ever erected on Knapps creek. For its erection \$400

was raised by subscription, and the remainder was paid by Andrew W. Moore, Moses Moore and Preston Moore. It was dedicated in June, 1852, and the Rev. — McClure became the first pastor. It is a good substantial building, and is heated by stoves. During the late war the soldiers made a barracks of it, and at one time threatened to burn it, but were prevailed upon to desist from such an act of vandalism, and to-day it stands a monument of the religious zeal and Christian enthusiasm of a generation now passed away. Among the first members were Leonard Heron, Jennie Heron, George Rider, Harvey Curry, Mary A. Curry, Moses Moore, Isabella Moore, Preston Moore, Andrew Moore Anna Moore, and Elizabeth Lightner. George Rider was the first class-leader, and the Rev. L. Fox is the present pastor.

Huntersville, the countyseat, is the only town in the district. It was laid out in 1821, and is situated on the left bank of Knapps creek, six miles from its mouth. It is surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains, and has, perhaps, more the appearance of an Alpine village than any town in the State. Its elevation is 1900 feet above the Atlantic. It contains the county buildings, two general mercantile stores, one hotel, one postoffice, one newspaper—the Pocahontas Times—and about a dozen dwellings.

Moses Moore, already mentioned as one of the first settlers, located on Knapps creek more than one hundred years ago, as is attested by records yet extant. There was an old Indian trail, or “Valley Draft,” as it was once called, by which the savages traveled when on their missions of blood to the settlements on Jacksons river and in the Shenandoah valley. This trail led near by where Moses Moore settled—viz., on the land now owned by his grandson, Andrew W. Moore, and, as might have been expected, it was not long before he was carried into captivity, but at last made his escape and returned to his mountain home. But twice more ere the savages were stayed beyond the Ohio, was he carried a prisoner to their towns on the Scioto. After his return the last time he purchased all the lands lying on Knapps creek, from where Esquire Dever now lives up to the church now



day of May, 1883, with James B. Canfield and Hezekiah B. Marshall, publishers and editors. It is an 8-page quarto, 5-column paper, and is devoted to the interests of Pocahontas county in particular, and to those of the State in general. The press upon which it is printed was first used in the office of the *Volcano Lubricator*, of Wood county. Afterward it was taken to Beverly and used in printing the *Randolph Review* — now the *Randolph Enterprise* — and *The Mystic Tie*, Masonic organ published at that place. Later it was purchased by Canfield & Marshall and brought to Pocahontas, where it is now used in printing the *Times*.

#### MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

On the 31st day of July, 1863, the legislature of West Virginia passed a bill entitled "An act to provide for the division into townships of the various counties composing this State." Appended to that bill was a schedule, in which several gentlemen were named in each county whose duty it was to perform the work in their respective counties. Those named for Pocahontas were: William R. Moore, J. N. Pray, Morgan Anderson, David M. Burgis, and John Sharp, sr. In most of the counties the work was performed, but Pocahontas was too much torn by war for any business of civil character to be transacted. Her records were hid away in the mountains of Alleghany county, and no courts were being held; consequently nothing was done until 1866, when it was resolved that the old magisterial districts, as they existed under the old State, should remain the same, and be known as townships under the new. This is the only county in the State, so far as the writer knows, which has preserved its old subdivisions, which were and are now: Greenbank, No. 1; Huntersville, No. 3; Edra, No. 2, and Levelton, No. 4. A brief notice of each is here given.

#### GREENBANK DISTRICT, NO. 1.

This is the most northern district of the county. It is bounded on the north and northwest by Randolph county, east by Pendleton and Highland counties, and south by Huntersville

and Edra districts. The surface is broken and mountainous, in the north are lofty ranges of the Rich and Alleghany mountains; while in the east are the western spurs of the Alleghanies proper. In the west are the Pine and Elk mountains, a southern continuation of the Cheat range of Randolph. Elk Knob, in the southwestern part of this district, attains a height of more than 3,000 feet, and is among the highest peaks in the State. The fountain streams of the Greenbrier river constitute the drainage system. Among them are the east and west prongs of Greenbrier, Little run, Deer creek, North fork of Deer creek, and Leather Bark creek.

#### HUNTERSVILLE DISTRICT, NO. 3,

Embraces the greater part of the eastern half of the county. To the north lies Green Bank district, while on the east it is separated from Highland and Bath counties in Old Virginia, by the summit of the Alleghany range. On the south lies Levelton district, and on the west is Edra. West of the center, and extending north-east from near Huntersville, almost to the northeast boundary, are the Brown mountains. In the southern part is a series of mountains called the Beaver Lick range. It is crowned by several lofty peaks. Just south of the latter is a level plateau, or table-land of considerable extent; it is covered with a lofty forest of white pine, and is locally known as the White Pine Plateau. Knapps creek and its tributaries drain the entire surface. The latter are: Little Buckle creek, Douthards creek, Cochran's creek, and Browns creek.

The first settlers in this district were: Moses Moore, John Bradshaw and Peter Lightner, both of the latter have already been mentioned. But they were not long permitted to enjoy the solitude of their lonely home alone, for other pioneers came and settled beside them.

The schools of a century ago were what were called "subscription," or "select," and were usually taught for a few months in the year by one of the pioneers, who in his youth had enjoyed superior education advantages. The text books used were Dilworth's speller, and some work — frequently the

day of May, 1843, with James B. Carroll and Woodruff B. Marshall, publishers and editors. It is an 8-page quarto, Southern paper, and is devoted to the interests of Frederick county in particular, and to those of the State in general. The press upon which it is printed was first used in the office of the *Frederick Freeman*, of Mount county. Afterwards it was taken to Haverly and used in printing the *Democratic Review* - now the *Democratic Freeman* - and the *State*. The Monroe paper published at that place, later it was purchased by Carroll & Marshall and brought to Frederick, where it is now used in printing the *Times*.

#### MINOR STATE DEVELOPMENTS

On the 11th day of July, 1843, the Legislature of West Virginia passed a bill entitled "An act to provide for the division into townships of the various counties comprising the State." Approved to that bill was a schedule, in which several gentlemen were named as each county whose duty it was to perform the work in their respective counties. Those named for Frederick were: William F. Stone, J. B. Day, Moses Robinson, David W. Hays, and John Sherr. It is none of the counties the work was performed, but Frederick was not much concerned by the act because of such character to be completed. The records were not even in the mountains of Allegheny county, and no county was being held, consequently nothing was done until 1844, when it was resolved that the old neglected district, as they called it, under the old laws, should remain the same, and so known as townships until the new law & the new county in the State, as far as the entire county, which was preserved to the end, and was not an incorporation. See H. Haverly, No. 2, 1844, No. 3, and resolution, No. 2, 1844, and also of such a law given.

#### CHERRYVILLE DISTRICT, No. 2.

This is the most northern district of the county, & is bounded on the north and northwest by Highland county, west by Frederick and Highland counties, and south by Haverly.

and Eden districts. The surface is broken and mountainous, in the north are lofty ranges of the Rich and Allegheny mountains, while in the east are the western spurs of the Allegheny proper. In the west are the Pine and Elk mountains, a southern continuation of the Cheat range of Randolph. Elk Knob, in the southwestern part of the district, attains a height of more than 2,000 feet, and is among the highest peaks in the State. The mountain streams of the Conococheague river constitute the drainage system. Among them are the east and west groups of Conococheague, Little run, Deer creek, North fork of Deer creek, and Lantier fork creek.

#### CHERRYVILLE DISTRICT, No. 3.

Encloses the greater part of the eastern half of the county. To the north lies Green Bank district, while in the east it is separated from Highland and Rich counties in Old Virginia, by the summit of the Allegheny range. On the south lies Landon district, and on the west is Eden. West of the county, and extending northwest from near Haverly, almost to the northeast boundary, are the Brown mountains. In the southern part is a series of mountains called the Brown Lick range. It is covered by several lofty peaks. Just south of the latter is a level plateau, or table-land of considerable extent. It is covered with a lofty forest of white pine, and is locally known as the White Pine Plateau. Knappa creek and its tributaries drain the entire surface. The latter are Little Bush creek, Dryhouse creek, Cashion creek, and Brown creek.

The first settlers in this district were Moses Stone, John Moulton and John Lightner, both of the latter have already been mentioned. But they were not long permitted to enjoy the solitude of their lonely home alone. As other pioneers came and settled north of them.

The school of a century ago was what was called "subscription," of which we have already caught the first mention in the story by one of the pioneers, and in the next had several examples of subscription advantages. The school was held once a week, the schoolmaster was a man named Haverly, and some were frequently the

residence of Joel Hill, Esq., on the Little Levels. Here they remained until January, 1862, when Mr. Curry became alarmed as to the safety of so valuable a charge thus placed in his custody, and he therefore caused them to be removed to Covington, Virginia, where for a short time they lay in the clerk's office of Alleghany county. From here they were taken to the storehouse of Captain William Scott. In September, 1863, General Averill's command reached Covington, and Mr. Curry again removed the records, first to the residence of William Clark, and then to a stack of buckwheat straw, in which they lay concealed for three weeks, and were then conveyed into the mountains and stored away at the house of a Baptist minister, and here they remained until after the surrender at Appomattox. The storm of war had now passed away, and Mr. Curry, in June, 1865, returned with the records, and once more deposited them at the house of Joel Hill. Here they remained one month, and were then taken to a vacant house belonging to the Rev. Mitchell Dunlap, where they remained until September, 1865, when the first court after the close of the war convened (November, 1865), in the Methodist Church at Hillsboro. From that time they were kept in the old academy building until June, 1866, when they were taken back to the county seat and deposited at the house of John B. Garey. More than five years have passed away since their first removal, and strange to say, that notwithstanding all the vicissitudes of war through which they passed, but one thing was lost, and that was an old process book of no value. Was not Mr. Curry true to his trust? Let those interested in the records of Pocahontas answer.

#### CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AND NEWSPAPERS

##### THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first Presbyterian Church ever organized within the present limits of the county was that known as the Oak Grove Church on the Little Levels, in the year 1793. For a period of thirty-seven years after its organization it had neither pastor or stated supply,

the only preaching being by ministers from distant fields who occasionally visited this mountainous section. From all that can now be learned, it is believed that the first minister who here proclaimed the glad tidings of salvation was the Rev. John McCue. After him came the Rev. Mr. Loomis. His successor was the celebrated John McElheny, D. D., who preached for many years at the Oak Grove Church, and did much toward securing its permanency.

In the year 1830 this church was reorganized by the Rev. S. L. Graham and at the time numbered but nine members, including four deacons, who were Josiah Beard, George Poage, John Jordan and S. D. Poage. Mr. Graham continued to be the pastor of this church for thirty-nine years, when he was succeeded by the Rev. J. S. Blaine, then, in the order named, by the Revs. D. S. Cunningham, William Brown, Joseph Brown, M. D. Dunlap, James Kerr, G. L. Brown, and D. S. Sydenstricker, the present incumbent. The present membership is 76.

#### LITTLE LEVELS ACADEMY.

This institution was established in 1842, under a charter granted by the State of Virginia. The incorporators were Josiah Beard, S. D. Poage, Samuel L. Mathews, Moses H. Poage, John Hill, Thomas Hill, James Miller, and Richard McNeel. The first principal was the Rev. Joseph Brown, who served as such for a period of seven years. He was succeeded by the Rev. M. D. Dunlap, who remained at the head of the institution for eleven years, or until the year 1860, when the war came on and the school closed. In 1865 the county purchased the building, since which time it has been used for public school purposes. This was the first school of a high order in the county, and notwithstanding the short period of its existence, it left its impress upon the educational interests of this mountain region.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The only newspaper that has ever been published in the county is the *Pocahontas Times*, the first number of which made its appearance on the 10th



company. This was early in the spring of 1861. A requisition was made for arms, and they were shipped from Richmond, were never received, and the company disbanded in the fall of the same year. Captain D. A. Stofor mustered a company at Huntersville, went south, and with it was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry. John M. Lightner was first lieutenant in this company. The third company formed was that of Captain Arbogast, at Greenbank. It, too, was attached to the 31st Infantry. The captain was afterward promoted to major of the regiment. Lieutenant H. M. Poague, of this county, but serving in a Bath county company, was killed in action at Warrenton, Virginia, October 12, 1863. Lieutenant James McGlothlin, of Captain Stofor's company, from Huntersville, was wounded at Shepherdstown, and died at Winchester Virginia.

#### ENGAGEMENTS IN POCAHONTAS

The first engagement which occurred in Pocahontas county, was at Camp Barteau, on what is known as the Peter Yeager farm, or the Traveler's Repose. Late in the summer of 1861, a Confederate force was collected at this point. It consisted of the 1st Georgia Infantry, Colonel Ramsey, commanding; the 12th Georgia, Colonel Edward Johnson in command, the 31st Virginia Infantry, Colonel William L. Jackson; Colonel Hansbro's Battalion; the Churchville Cavalry, from Churchville, Augusta county, Captain James Sterrett in command, and the Rockbridge Cavalry, commanded by the captain, J. C. McNutt; the entire force under command of General Henry L. Jackson.

On the 14th of September, 1861, this force was attacked by the Federals under command of Generals Reynolds and Rosecrans. The firing began early in the morning and continued until nightfall, when the Federals withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain summit, in Randolph county. The Confederate loss was thirty-six killed; that of the Federals was unknown.

A few days later the Confederates fell back to Camp Alleghany, and after being re-enforced by two regiments, one of which was the 52nd Virginia

Infantry, under Colonel John Baldwin, they fortified a strong natural position. Here, in December, they were again attacked by the Federals, and the engagement continued throughout the day, but terminated as had the first, in the repulse of the Federals. The loss was considerable on both sides. Among that of the Confederates was that of Captain Anderson, of the Lynchburg Artillery, and Captain J. C. Whitmer, of the Pocahontas Rifles.

#### THE BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN

Was fought on the 6th day of November, 1863. The Confederate force consisted of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Colonel George Patton (of Kanawha county, afterward killed at Winchester), commanding; the 19th Virginia, Colonel W. P. Thompson; the 20th Virginia, Colonel W. W. Arnett; the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel James Cochran; Jackson's and Chapman's Batteries, and Edgar's and Derrick's Battalions; the entire force under command of General John Echols. This force, on the first of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluffs, in Greenbrier county.

The Federal force was composed of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 23d and 28th Ohio Infantry, the 5th 6th and 10th West Virginia Infantry, and one battery of Artillery. This force had been stationed at Beverly in Randolph county.

Both forces advanced and met on the northern extremity of Droop mountain, and the battle began at 10 A.M., and waged until 4 P.M., when the Confederates, finding their positions flanked, right and left, were forced to retreat; they fell back beyond Lewisburg, and were pursued several miles. The loss on both sides was heavy.

#### THE COUNTY RECORDS DURING THE WAR

At the time of the breaking out of the war, the Hon. William Curry was serving as both circuit and county clerk, and when it became evident that the Federals would invade the county, the court ordered Mr. Curry to remove the records to a place of safety. In compliance with this order he caused them to be taken to the private

removed several of his slaves to the land for the purpose of having them improve it. Among the number was one familiarly known as "Old Ben," who in the absence of Mr. Warwick acted as foreman and general manager.

A quantity of stock was brought out, and soon vast numbers of horses and cattle were running at large in the forest. On one occasion the proprietor came out to the farm to see how the work was progressing, and one morning during his stay, he and Ben rode some three miles up the stream to salt the cattle, which when done they started to return, but had not proceeded far when they were fired upon by a band of Indians in ambush. But one ball took effect, and that pierced the body of the horse upon which Mr. Warwick rode. The horse fell to the ground, but at once recovered himself and the two dashed away at full speed, and reached the house in safety, but just as they reined up the wounded horse fell dead. Mr. Warwick mounted another which happened to be standing in the yard, and rode post haste to Jacksons river, while Old Ben gathered the slaves and took refuge in the mountains, and there remained until all danger was past.

#### OTHER PIONEERS

Of those who first occupied the cabin homes amid the mountains of this once wild and romantic region, the following are given in the census of the county, or rather what is now the county, at the beginning of the present century: Isaac Moore, his wife and 6 children; Moses Moore, his wife and 4 children; Peter Lightner, his wife and 4 children; Henry Harper, his wife and 6 children; John Moore, his wife and 9 children; Felix Grines, his wife and 7 children; Samuel Waugh, his wife and 13 children; James Waugh, his wife and 12 children; Aaron Moore, his wife and 9 children; Robert Moore, his wife and 6 children; Timothy McCarty, his wife and 6 children; Andrew Gwin, his wife and 2 children; Sampson Mathews, his wife and 3 sons; Josiah Brown, his wife and 6 children; John Sharp, his wife and 5 children; William Sharp, his wife and 9 children; William Pogue, his wife and 4 children; John Baxter, his wife and 5 children; Levi Moore, his wife and 6 children; and John Bradshaw, his wife and 5 children.

It is not to be understood that the above embraces all, but it is believed that it includes very nearly the entire population at the time mentioned. The aggregate is 153. The parents have long since joined the silent majority on the other shore, and their posterity are scattered far and wide. Many have joined father and mother beyond the river. Many others have sought homes in distant States, while others yet reside in this and adjacent counties. James, a son of William Moore, lives near Edra and is now eighty years of age. Three sons of Samuel Waugh still reside within the county, John, a blacksmith, 68 years of age, and Jacob, a miller, both reside near Edra, and Beverly H., is a farmer, near Hillsboro. James Waugh, one of the pioneers, died in March, 1831, but five of his sons yet survive. Lorenzo lives in California; Jacob resided in Buckhannon, in Upshur county; Morgan in Jackson county, this State; James lives on Greenbrier river on a part of the old James Waugh farm and is now nearly seventy years of age, and M. G. Waugh, the youngest son, now 52 years old, resides in this county.

#### POCAHONTAS COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In 1861 the clouds of war hung over America, and their deepest density rested over Virginia. Civil commotion shook the grand old Commonwealth, and the countenances of her sons but told the impending struggle, fierce and wild. Everywhere they enlisted in defense of their native State, and from the tide-washed shores, from the midland counties, and from the rock-ribbed Alleghanies, long lines of brave soldiers marched forth to battle and die upon a hundred crimsoned fields. Among them were many of the descendants of the first pioneers of Pocahontas—they who, a century before, had struggled with the fierce and relentless barbarian, and had at last driven him from the country in which they had founded their homes where the soldiers of a later day were born and reared.

No sooner had the tocsin of war sounded throughout their native mountains than volunteering began. Captain Andrew G. McNeel repaired to the Little Levels and organized the first

mountains and joined the patriot army, in which they served they saw the thirteen feeble colonies of 1776 the recognized nation of 1783.

If the traveler who visits the beautiful little mountain town of Hillsboro, will stroll a mile and half to the north of that village he will reach a beautiful cemetery in which repose many of the pioneers of Pocahontas county. There sleep John McNeel and his wife, Charles and Edward Kennison and their wives, and several other heroes of Point Pleasant and patriots of the Revolution. No historian has inscribed their names high upon the pillar of fame, but their memory lives where they would have wished it to live—in the hearts of those who dwell among the mountains, where they themselves first planted the banner of civilization.

#### PETER LIGHTNER, THE BUILDER OF THE FIRST GRIST MILL.

Peter Lightner was among the first settlers in what is now Pocahontas county. He was a German-Dutchman and came from the eastern part of the State. He located on Knapps creek, and our informant says "he was a great blessing to the country which he came to help settle." Prior to his coming there were no mills nearer than Staunton, distant nearly a hundred miles through a trackless wilderness. This was too far to think of "going to mill," so the people prepared their own corn for bread. The mode was simple: a large tree was felled, from which a block or "cut" was taken, which when placed on end was probably as high as a man's waist. It was placed on end in front of the cabin, then a fire was kindled upon it, and so managed that an inverted cone was formed. From this the charred coals were taken and the "hominy block" was ready for use. A peck or more of shelled corn was put in and pounded until it was reduced to a coarse meal, from which bread was then baked. Another plan was to boil the corn until it was quite soft, then pound into a jelly, which was then dried and used as needed. This preparation was called hominy meal. Mr. Lightner remedied all this. He erected a mill, and although some of the pioneers had to come thirty miles

they considered it an easy task to provide bread. This mill was located on Knapps creek, and although nearly a hundred years have breathed their changeful breath upon the site, yet a portion of the old foundation and a trace of the race still remain to inform the observer that it once existed. Mr. Lightner sold this mill to John Bradshaw; who in turn sold it to Henry Harper. The buhrs are now in an old mill in Highland county, Virginia.

#### JOHN BRADSHAW—AND JOHN HARNESSE, THE FIRST PEDDLER.

Another early pioneer was John Bradshaw, who reared his cabin home on the site where Huntersville, the county-seat, now stands. Soon after he located, the people of Bath county constructed a wagon road from the Warm Springs, through the mountains, to his house. This was the first public road ever opened within the present limits of Pocahontas county.

Soon after the opening of this thorough fare, a man named John Harnesse began hauling goods from Staunton into these mountains for the purpose of trading with the settlers. He made his headquarters at the house of Mr. Bradshaw, and here he opened out his stock in trade, which was largely made up of salt, coffee, powder, lead, a few pieces of calico, etc. Here he would be met by the hunters, who brought in their pelts, venison, ginseng, etc., and exchanged for that which they most needed. From this fact the place became known as Huntersville, a name which it has ever since retained.

#### THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE CLOVER LICK FARM

Was Jacob Warwick. He was one of the earliest settlers in that portion of Bath county now included in Pocahontas. He came from the southeastern part of Virginia, and his first settlement was on Jacksons river. He owned a great many slaves, and after he patented the lands now known as the Clover Lick Farm, he came out and built a house, then



were at home, whose ages were 17, 15, and 13 years. The father was confined to his bed by sickness, but his wife, with the firmness of a Roman matron, called them to her and bade them fly to the defense of their native land. "Go, my children" said she, "I spare not my youngest, my fair-haired boy, the comfort of my declining years. I devote you all to my country. Keep back the invader from the soil of Augusta, or see my face no more." When this incident was related to Washington he exclaimed, "Leave me but a banner to plant upon the mountains of West Augusta, and I will rally around me the men who will lift our bleeding country from the dust and set her free."

Charles, the fifth youngest son, fell at the head of his regiment when leading on an attack at Point Pleasant. He was esteemed the most skillful of all leaders of border warfare. Such were the sons and such was the father—the first surveyor in the Greenbrier Valley.

#### COLONEL JOHN M'NEEL

Was one of the Earliest pioneers in the wilds of West Augusta and the first actual settler on the Little Levels, now in Pocahontas county. He was born near Winchester, Virginia, but early in life went to the Cumberland valley, in Maryland. Here, soon after his settlement, he had an altercation with a young man which resulted in a hand-to-hand fight, and Mr. McNeel, believing that he had killed his antagonist, fled to the wilderness, and after some time spent in wandering amid the wild solitudes of the Alleghenies, he came upon what has ever since been known as the Little Levels. It was a beautiful little valley, hemmed on all sides by lofty mountain ranges, and here the wanderer and, as he supposed, fugitive from justice, decided to make his future home. Here he reared his lonely cabin. This was about the year 1765, two years after the destruction of the Muddy Creek settlement in Greenbrier, and four years before Col. John Stuart came to the site of old Fort Union.

A short time after Mr. McNeel had occupied his cabin he was out hunting; greatly to his surprise, he met Charles and James Kennison, two white men,

who were searching for a suitable site to found a home. From them he learned that the man whom he supposed he had killed, had not died and in fact had not been seriously injured. To him, this was joyful news, for the thought of having caused the death of a fellow-man was the most dreadful to contemplate. The Kennisons accompanied him to his lonely retreat, and with him as a guide soon found lands upon which they resolved to settle, then all three returned east of the mountains to make preparations for their removal into the wilderness.

During their stay in the valley Mr. McNeel wooed and won the heart and hand of a lady named Martha Davis. She was born in Wales in 1743, and at an early date had accompanied her parents to Virginia. Now she prepared to go to the wilderness and share the toils and hardships of a pioneer home. The man to whom she had given the best affections of her heart was worthy of the trust. All things were gotten ready, the journey made and the final home was reached. A few acres of land were cleared, and then, Mr. McNeel remembered his duty to his God, and with his own hands reared a small log cabin in which his neighbors and himself might worship Him who heareth the ravens when they cry, and who watcheth over the wanderer in the wilderness or the mariner upon the ocean. This temple dedicated by its builder to the worship of the Builder of the Universe was called the White Pole Church, and was, in all probability, the first ever erected west of the Alleghany mountains.

At length Dunmore's war broke out, and Mr. McNeel, together with his neighbors, the Kennisons, repaired to Camp Union, enlisted and accompanied General Lewis to Point Pleasant, where they participated in the bloody battle of October 10, 1774. During their absence a child of Mr. McNeel died, and the mother, heroine as she was, constructed a rude coffin, dug a narrow grave, and with her own hands laid the infant away to rest.

The soldiers returned but not to remain. The struggle between the Mother Country and her American Colonies was rapidly verging to a crisis, and they at once crossed the

name by which it has ever since been known to English and American geographers.

#### THE MAN WHO FIRST CARRIED THE COMPASS IN THE GREENBRIER VALLEY,

As before stated, was John Lewis, a brief notice of whom is here given. He was a native of Ireland, descended from a family of Huguenots, who took refuge in that kingdom from the bloody persecutions that followed in the wake of the assassination of Henry IV. of France. He inherited a considerable estate, which he increased by industry and frugality, until he became the lessee of a contagious property of considerable value. He married Margaret Lynn, daughter of the Liard of Loch Lynn, who was a descendant of the chieftains of a once powerful clan in the Scottish Highlands. By this marriage he had five sons, Thomas, Andrew, Samuel and William, born in Ireland, and Charles, the child of his old age, born a few months after his settlement amid the mountains of West Augusta. John Lewis arrived in Virginia in 1730, and in 1733 located and built Fort Lewis a few miles below the present city of Staunton, on a stream which still bears his name.

Like many others, his object was to obtain land, and patents are still extant by which his majesty granted to him a large portion of the fair domain of Western Virginia. For many years after the settlement at Fort Lewis, amity and good will existed between the neighboring Indians and the white settlers, whose numbers increased apace until they became quite a formidable colony. Then it was that the jealousy of their red neighbors became aroused, and a war broke out which, for cool though desperate courage and activity on the part of the whites, and ferocity, cunning and barbarity on the part of the Indians, was never equalled in any age or country. John Lewis was by this time well stricken in years, but his four sons, all of whom were now grown up, were well qualified to fill his place and to act the part of leaders to the gallant bands who so nobly battled for the protection of their homes and families.

Thomas, the oldest son, labored under a defect of vision, which disabled him as a marksman, and he was, therefore, less efficient during the Indian war than his brethren. He was, however, a man of learning and sound judgment, and represented the county of Augusta for many years in the house of burgesses; was a member of the Virginia convention which ratified the constitution of the United States, and framed the constitution of Virginia, and afterwards represented the county of Rockingham in the general assembly of Virginia. He had four sons actively participating in the war of the Revolution, the youngest of whom bore an ensign's commission when but fourteen years of age.

Andrew, the second son, who was with his father at the mouth of Knapps creek in 1751, was a soldier in Colonel George Washington's regiment during the French and Indian war, was at Braddock's defeat, and the siege and capitulation of Fort Necessity July 4, 1754. He was twice wounded during the war; returned home and led the Big Sandy expedition to the Ohio river in 1756; commanded the southern division of the Virginia army at Point Pleasant in 1774 (see History of the Virginias), and upon the breaking out of the Revolution received and held a brigadier general's commission until 1780, when he resigned it and started home, but sickened and died of a fever in Bedford county, Virginia, when within forty miles of his home on the Roanoke.

Samuel, the third son, too, was a soldier in the old French war; he commanded a company in Washington's regiment, every one of his brothers serving under him. William, the fourth son, took an active part in the border wars, and was an officer in the Revolutionary army, in which one of his sons was killed and another maimed for life. When the British force under Tarleton drove the legislature from Charlottesville to Staunton, the stillness of the Sabbath eve was broken in the latter town by the beat of the drum, and volunteers were called for to prevent the passage of the British through the mountains at Rockfish. The elder sons of William Lewis were then absent with the northern army; three, however,

carefully concealed from the English because of a superstition prevailing among the Indians to the effect that no harm could befall one whose true name was unknown. She was born about the year 1595, and early in life gave the strongest evidence of her friendship for the English. Every one is familiar with the story of the rescue of Captain John Smith, and also of the frustration of the plot to cut off the colonists in 1609, information of which was conveyed to Jamestown by Pocahontas.

About the year 1612 she was paying a visit to Japazous, chief of the Potomac Indians. At the same time Captain Argall, a man of much shrewdness and executive force, but infamous for his dishonest practices, was cruising up the Potomac; he quickly saw the advantage the English would gain in their negotiations with Powhatan for the return of a Mr. Scrivener, then a prisoner held by him, if he could secure so valuable a hostage as the chief's daughter. With a copper kettle he bribed Japazaus, the chief with whom he was trading, and with whom she was staying, to entice her on board the vessel, when he detained her, much to the sorrow of the daughter of the wilderness, whose life had been hitherto as free as that of the wild animals of her native forest. To Jamestown, where she had often played as a child, and whither she had so often come as a friend, she was now carried a prisoner. When the old chief learned of the duplicity of the English, he, instead of entering into negotiations, at once prepared for war, but hostilities were averted by a remarkable event. This was nothing less than

#### HER MARRIAGE TO JOHN ROLFE

An Englishman, who appears to have been a widower, and who having become enamoured with her beauty, wrote a formal letter to the governor, Sir Thomas Dale, proposing to convert her to Christianity and then marry her. This pleased the old governor, and was likewise acceptable to Powhatan. The marriage took place at Jamestown, in April, 1613, and was celebrated according to the rites of the English Church. The old chief sent an uncle of Pocahontas and two brothers to

witness the ceremony, and soon after sent a bundle of deer skins as a present to his daughter and her husband.

Early in 1816 Rolfe and Pocahontas accompanied Sir Thomas Dale to England. Powhatan sent several Indians over with them, one of whom was commissioned to court the English. The arrival of the Lady Rebecca, as Pocahontas was called after her marriage, produced a great sensation in England. Captain Smith introduced her to the nobility, and Lady Delaware presented her at court. In the meantime Rolfe was appointed secretary and recorder general of Virginia, and must therefore return to the banks of the James. They accordingly visited Brentford and other places of note, and then repaired to Gravesend for the purpose of sailing to America; but while awaiting a ship, Pocahontas sickened and died of small pox (March, 1617), at the age of twenty-two. She left one son, who was educated by an uncle in London, and afterwards became a wealthy and distinguished character in Virginia, and from him some of the most prominent families of the Old Commonwealth trace their descent.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The first white men within the present limits of the county were Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell, who, in the year 1749, reached the mouth of Knapps creek, and erected a cabin on the banks of Greenbrier river, on what has ever since been known as Marlins bottom, lying at the northern base of Marlins mountain. (For an extended account of their settlement, see History of Greenbrier county, elsewhere found in this work.)

The second white men who were on Greenbrier river were John Lewis and his son Andrew (afterwards General Lewis), who in 1751 came over as the agents and surveyors for the Greenbrier land company, to which the British crown had granted 100,000 acres of land to be located in the valley of Greenbrier river. It was at this time that the elder Lewis became entangled in the dense growth of greenbriers which grew in the valley, and he declared that he would ever after call the stream upon the banks of which he was then surveying Greenbrier river—a



of Pocahontas county, in the district called the "Head of Greenbrier," whereupon he and his bondsmen, William Slavens and Samuel Hogset, entered into a bond of \$500, conditioned as the law directs. Cyrus Curry and Johnston Reynolds having obtained license to practice law in the inferior and superior courts of the commonwealth, were, upon their motion permitted to practice law as counsel or attorneys in the courts of this county. On motion the court then adjourned until 10 A.M. the next day.

March 6th the court convened as per adjournment, all the justices present except Robert Gray. John Jordan who the day before had qualified as high sheriff, came into court and asked that his son Jonathan be appointed as his deputy, and the record says: "The court being of the opinion that the said Jonathan Jordan is a man of honesty, probity and good demeanor, and he is therefore permitted to qualify; whereupon he took the several oaths." The court then proceeded to appoint overseers or surveyors of the various roads, completed and prospective, within the county; and the names of those who thus assumed charge of the highways and thoroughfares through the mountains of what but a few years before had been the wilds of West Augusta, were as follows: James Collison, William Edmiston, John Hill, John Cochran, Alexander Wadell, John McNeel (little John), Robert Moore, Martin Dilley, Benjamin Arbogast, William Sharp, William Hartman, and Joseph Wolfenbarger. Robert Gay was then appointed commissioner of the revenue; whereupon he came into court, and with William Cackley and John Baxter entered into a bond in the penalty of \$1,000, after which he took the several oaths required by law.

The court then proceeded to organize the county militia, as a part of the military establishment of the State. The following named persons were named as "fit and proper" to fill the respective offices, and the governor and council requested to appoint the same: John Baxter for colonel commandant of the county of Pocahontas; Benjamin Tollman for the office of lieutenant colonel; William Blair for major; Boone Tollman, William Arbogast, Henry Harold, Isaac

Moore, and Milburn Hughes, captains; Andrew G. Mathews, Robert Warwick, William Morgan, William Young, and James Rhea, for lieutenants; Jacob Slavens, James Wanliss, Samuel Young, and James Callison, for ensigns.

Then Abraham McNeel was recommended to the governor as a suitable person to discharge the office of coroner for the county. A license was then granted to Travis W. Perkins to keep a house of entertainment, who thus became the first hotel proprietor in Pocahontas county. Then Jacob W. Mathews, Thomas Hill, John Slavens, James Callison, William Edmiston, John Gilliland, William Cackley, Samuel Cummings, John Bradshaw, Joseph Moore, Patrick Burfee, James Waugh and James Sharp were each recommended as suitable persons to be appointed justices of peace, and the court having put both the civil and military machinery in complete running order, adjourned, and Pocahontas county entered upon her career as one of the integral factors of the "Old Dominion."

#### MAY TERM OF 1822

This term convened at the house of John Bradshaw on the 7th day of the month, and the first grand jury that ever sat for the body of Pocahontas county was empaneled and sworn. It was composed of the following named persons: Samuel Dougherty, foreman; John Mooney, George Key, John Johnston, Joseph Freed, James Grimes, James Bridger, Samuel Waugh, Henry Herold, James Lewis, John Grimes, Morris Hughes, William Blair, Andrew Edmiston, Samuel Hogset, James McNeel, William McNeel, John Moore, Lanty Lockridge, Jonathan Griffin, and Abraham Seaboard. After receiving their instructions they retired "to consider of their presentments;" soon after they returned into court, having found two indictments, one against David H. Smith for assault and battery, and another against Josiah Bean for obstructing the public highway.

#### SHE FOR WHOM THE COUNTY WAS NAMED

Powhatan, king of the confederated tribes of Atlantic Virginia. Her real name was Matoka, but this was

When this region shall have railroad connection with the commercial centers, then will it become a great iron producing region, and deposits of excellent ore will be developed, which ages of the most active industry cannot exhaust.

The Greenbrier river has its source in the extreme northern part, and flows southwest, dividing the county into two nearly equal parts. It is one of the most beautiful rivers which flow out from the Alleghanies. On the eastern side its principal tributaries are: Deer creek, Thorny creek, Knapps creek, Beaver creek and Laurel creek. Cochran's creek and Douthards creek, both named from early settlers upon their banks, are tributaries of Knapps creek. But few small streams flow in from the west. Leatherwood, Stony, and Stamping creeks—the latter so called from the fact that vast herds of buffaloes formerly resorted thither—are the principal ones. In the west are several small streams forming the headwaters of Gauley and Elk rivers. Among those falling into the former are Cranberry river, North fork of Williams river, Mountain run, Beaver Dam creek, Days run (so called from an old pioneer), Laurel creek and Tea creek, the latter taking its name from the peculiar color of its waters. Of those flowing into the Elk, Burgoo and Spring creeks are the most prominent.

#### FORMATION OF THE COUNTY.

It was in the month of March, in the year 1821, that the general assembly of Virginia passed a bill entitled "An act to provide for the formation of a new county out of parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph." Section first of this bill defined the boundaries of the new county, the area of which was 760 square miles. In 1824 the southern boundary line was changed, and 60 square miles was taken from Greenbrier, thus increasing the area to 820 miles, its present area. The same section also declared that the new county should be styled and known as Pocahontas, in memory of, and in honor of the Indian princess of that name. Another section named the place and fixed the time at which the first court should be held.

#### THE FIRST COUNTY COURT.

In conformity with the before-mentioned act, the first county court ever held for Pocahontas county, convened at the house of John Bradshaw on the 5th day of March, 1822, the day appointed for that purpose. The following justices of the peace, each holding commissions signed by his excellency, Thomas Mann Randolph, governor of the commonwealth, namely: John Jordan, William Poag, jr., James Tollman, Robert Gray, George Poag, Benjamin Tollman, John Baxter and George Burner. John Baxter qualified the court, each member of which took the oath of office, the oath of fidelity to the commonwealth, the oath to support the constitution of the United States, and the oath against dueling. William Poag then in turn administered the several oaths to John Baxter, and the court was declared open for the transaction of such business as might properly come before it.

John Jordan then presented a commission from the governor appointing him high sheriff of the county, after which he gave bond in the penalty of \$30,000, with Abraham McNeel and Isaac McNeel as his bondsmen, and took the several oaths prescribed by law. Josiah Beard was then appointed clerk of the court, and with Thomas Beard, George Poag and James Tollman entered into a bond of \$3,000, took the oaths, and at once entered upon the discharge of his duties, and how well he performed the work let any one answer who has examined the early records of Pocahontas county. John Reynolds was then appointed attorney from the commonwealth. He at once took the oath, and began to look after the interests of the Old Dominion. Then Sampson L. Mathews was recommended "as a fit and proper person to execute the office of surveyor of lands." William Hughes was then appointed constable for the lower district on the Little Levels, it being the same baliwick in which the said William Hughes had served when it was a portion of Bath county. He gave bond in the penalty of \$500, with William McNeel and Robert McClintock as his securities. Then James Cooper was appointed constable

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

GEOGRAPHY OF  
POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

Pocahontas county lies in the extreme eastern portion of the State, and is the southernmost of what is known as the mountain tier of counties. It is bounded on the north by Randolph county; northeast, by Pendleton; east and southeast, by Highland and Bath counties, in Old Virginia; south, by Greenbrier, and west by Greenbrier and Webster. The thirty-eighth parallel of north latitude bisects the second meridian west from Washington at a point near the center of the county, while Huntersville, the county-seat, is north 38deg. 24sec., and west 2deg. and 4min.

The surface is for the most part rough and mountainous. It is here that the traveler beholds lofty longitudinal and transverse ranges, trending to every point of the compass, and as he stands and gazes upon the scene spread out before him, he experiences that feeling of sublimity which ever impresses the traveler when the picture of scenic grandeur spread out before him, and

the mind soars away and dwells upon Him whose power reared those mighty masses around him, and realizes that He who did it "caused a thousand worlds to be."

Here is the culminating point of the Alleghany range; Mount Bayard, four miles west of Hillsboro, and formerly called Briery Knob, is the highest point in the range, and its summit is the highest land in West Virginia. Along the eastern boundary stretch the Alleghanies proper, in the north are the Rich mountains, Cheat mountains, Middle mountains; in the west are the Yew mountains and Black Range, while in the south are the Beaver mountains, Cranberry Range, and Knob mountains, the highest point of the latter being Droop mountain, now historical because of the fierce battle fought upon it and around its northern base during the late war. In the center lie the Brown mountains and Buckley peaks.

Immense masses of iron ore abound in all parts of the county, those near Huntersville being of such an extent as to far outrival the far-famed Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob of Missouri.

